



# National Weather Service

## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



September 2004

Location	Date	Time Local/ Standard	Path Length (Miles)	Path Width (Yards)	Number of Persons		Estimated Damage		Character of Storm
					Killed	Injured	Property	Crops	

### MINNESOTA, Central and South Central

#### Rice County

**3 W Morristown**      **05**      **1454CST**           **0**      **0**           **Hail(0.75)**  
Dime sized hail fell near Upper and Lower Lake Sakatah.

#### Freeborn County

**2 NE Albert Lea**      **05**      **1520CST**           **0**      **0**           **Funnel Cloud**  
A trained spotter reported a funnel cloud just northeast of Albert Lea.

#### Kanabec County

**6 N Mora**      **13**      **2045CST**           **0**      **1**           **Lightning**  
Lightning struck a pickup truck on Highway 65. The driver, a 22-year-old man, was stunned by the bolt. He was found shaking and somewhat incoherent but quickly recovered.

#### Redwood County

**Lamberton**      **13**      **2053CST**           **0**      **0**           **Thunderstorm Wind (MG62)**  
A 71 MPH wind gust was recorded by an automated weather sensor at a school.

#### Brown County

**Springfield**      **13**      **2115CST**           **0**      **0**           **Thunderstorm Wind (EG52)**  
A few trees were downed.

#### Brown County

**New Ulm**      **13**      **2130CST**           **0**      **0**           **Lightning**  
A home on Garden Street suffered electrical damage after a lightning strike.

#### Brown County

**Sleepy Eye**      **13**      **2130CST**           **0**      **0**           **Thunderstorm Wind (EG52)**  
A few trees were downed.

#### Brown County

**New Ulm**      **13**      **2230CST**           **0**      **0**           **Lightning**  
A residence on South Jefferson Street suffered damage to a tree, transformer, doorbell, and front door after lightning struck.

#### Faribault County

**Countywide**      **14**      **2030CST**  
   **2345CST**           **0**      **0**           **Flash Flood**

#### Freeborn County

**Countywide**      **14**      **2030CST**  
   **2345CST**           **0**      **0**           **Flash Flood**

#### Steele County

**Countywide**      **14**      **2030CST**  
   **2345CST**           **0**      **0**           **Flash Flood**

**MNZ078-084>085-091>093**

**Goodhue - Waseca - Steele - Martin - Faribault - Freeborn**

**14**      **2345CST**           **0**      **0**      **6.7M**      **21.6M**      **Flood**  
**19**      **1000CST**



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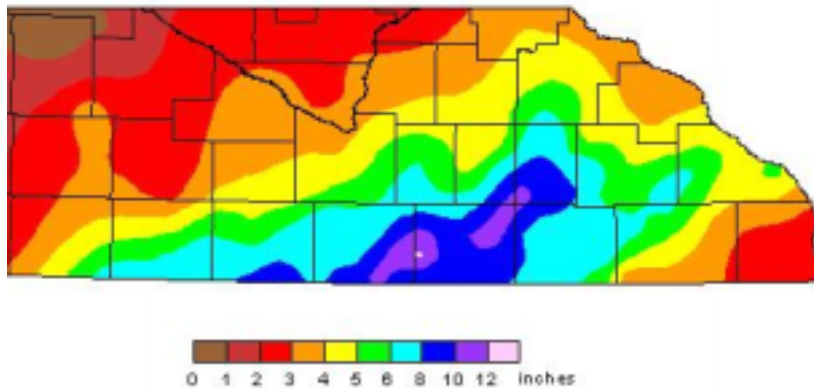


September 2004

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### MINNESOTA, Central and South Central

#### Total Rainfall September 14-15, 2004



State Climatology Office - DNR Waters

*Rainfall totals across Southern Minnesota between September 14th and 15th, 2004. Courtesy of the State Climatology Office - DNR Waters.*

Five to 13 inches of rain fell across South Central Minnesota between 5 PM on the 14th and 5 AM on the 15th. This amount of rainfall caused widespread major flooding in Freeborn, Steele, Faribault, and Martin counties. Over \$6 million dollars in property damage and nearly \$22 million dollars in crop damage were attributed to high water in these counties. Areas of minor flooding were also reported in southern Waseca and Goodhue counties.

In Freeborn County \$2.1 million in property damage was reported. FEMA reported 1 home was destroyed by flood waters, major flood damage to 13 homes, minor damage to 84 homes, and 292 homes affected by flood waters across the county. The hardest hit areas were Albert Lea, Hollandale, Riceland Township, and Shell Rock Township where numerous county roads, fields, waterways, and low lying areas were underwater for up to 4 days. Road crews had to repair several road washouts after flood waters subsided. Significant flooding was reported on the Shell Rock River and Turtle Creek in addition to Fountain Lake and Albert Lea Lake. An earthen dam had to be built around the village of Hollandale to save the community from Turtle Creek's flood waters. Two thirds of the homes in town sustained flood damage. Water ran over the top of the Geneva Lake Dam, flooding potato, onion, and carrot fields. Crop losses in this area totaled \$4 million. In Albert Lea the following roads were closed by flooding: Front Street, East and West Main, and Highway 65. In Alden, Morin Lake overflowed and street and basement flooding was reported. Interstate 90 was closed for several hours due to high water near Alden. Highway 251 was closed in Maple Island. Road and basement flooding was also reported in Hartland and Myrtle. Rainfall totals included 13.00 inches 5 miles southwest of Alden, 12.50 inches 4 miles north of Albert Lea, 10.66 inches in north Albert Lea, 10.25 inches in Hayward, 9.8 inches in Powers, 8.50 inches south of Emmons, and 8.00 inches in Bancroft and south Albert Lea.

In Steele County rainfall amounts of 6 to 13 inches led to "unprecedented flooding". A total of \$2.8 million in property damage was recorded (\$1.4 million home damage, \$70,000 business damage, \$1.35 million infrastructure damage). Much of the damage was caused by major flooding along the Straight River and Turtle Creek across the southern portion of the county. The cities of Blooming Prairie and Ellendale were hardest hit. County officials reported major flood damage to 30 homes, minor damage to 400 homes, and 431 homes affected by flood waters. In addition 4 county businesses sustained major flood damage, 4 businesses reported minor damage, and 8 businesses were affected by flood waters. Twenty-four people in the county had to be rescued from flood waters. Numerous roads, waterways, and low lying areas were under water for up to 5 days. At one time up to 75% of county roads were closed by high water. After the water receded significant damage to roads, ditches, and bridges was apparent. Blooming Prairie High School and Elementary School were closed due to flood damage. The Straight River crested in Blooming Prairie on the 18th and remained out of its banks through the 19th. County road 212 was under water in town when the river crested. Several parks along the Straight River and its tributaries in Ellendale, Blooming Prairie, and Owatonna sustained severe water damage. In an effort to save homes on the west side of Blue Earth, volunteers sandbagged along the river. In Owatonna, a campground along the river had to be evacuated and nearby Lake Kohlmier was flooded. Near Ellendale the Straight River flooded several farms along Highway 30. A group home along Turtle Creek in Owatonna had to be evacuated after the river spilled into the facility. Overflow from Maple Creek also caused major park damage. Countywide 20% of soybean and corn crops and 10% of sweet corn crops were lost to flooding, which resulted in \$10.4 million in losses.



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## Storm Data and Unusual Weather Phenomena



September 2004

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### MINNESOTA, Central and South Central

In Faribault County \$1.2 million in property damage was reported. FEMA reported major flood damage to 15 homes, minor damage to 29 homes, and 272 homes affected by flood waters across the county. Numerous roadways had to be barricaded after road and culvert washouts occurred. Roads closed by flooding included highways 30, and 169 in addition to county routes 121, 108, 119, 118, 219, 109, 2, 16, 21, and 13. Interstate 90 was also closed in the eastern portion of the county. In Wells many streets were closed by high water. Half Moon Park was also flooded. Road and basement flooding was also reported in Winnebago and Minnesota Lake. In Kiester a school was flooded and phone service was out in some areas for up to a week. In Briceyn nearly 40% of homes were damaged by flood waters. In Blue Earth the Blue Earth River flowed into at least 2 homes and flooded numerous basements, roads, and parks. The city sustained nearly \$35,000 in infrastructure damage, even after sandbagging along the river. The flooding finally began to subside on the 17th. Countywide 10% of soybean crops were lost to flooding, which resulted in \$3.5 million in losses. Rainfall totals included 10.20 inches in Briceyn, 10.08 inches south of Walters, 6.73 inches in Wells, 5.00 inches in Blue Earth, and 4.86 inches in Winnebago.

In Martin County \$570,000 in property damage was reported (\$500,000 public property, \$70,000 private property). Up to 90 homes were affected by flooding due to storm sewer overflow, mainly across the southern third of the county. Five to 7 inches of rain was commonplace across the county with up to 10 inches in the Ceylon and East Chain areas. A total of 6.40 inches of rain was recorded in Fairmont. Fairmont Junior/Senior High was closed due to flood damage. A number of homes in the Canyon Drive area of Fairmont suffered basement flooding and were surrounded by water for several hours. The bridge over Cedar Creek in Cedar Creek Park was washed out. In addition, the following roads in Fairmont were closed due to flooding: Lake Aires Road, Winnebago Avenue, and Hall Street. Basement and street flooding was reported in Truman. Most of the flooding across Martin County had receded by the morning of the 16th. Countywide 10% of soybean crops were lost to flooding, which resulted in \$3.7 million in losses.

In Waseca County 3.54 inches of rain was recorded in Waseca. Up to 6 inches of rain flooded roads in the southern portion of the county. In Janesville roads and basements were flooded. Basement flooding was also reported in New Richland and Waseca.

In Goodhue County 3.92 inches of rain was recorded in Zumbrota and 5 inches of rain was estimated in Pine Island. The Middle Fork and the North Branch of the Zumbro River overflowed their banks. The rivers crested in Pine Island during the afternoon of the 15th and fell below flood stage that evening. Pine Island Golf Course was flooded in addition to County Road 24 and 275th Avenue

**MNZ066-070-078**

**McLeod - Dakota - Goodhue**

<b>15</b>	<b>1100CST</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0.70K</b>	<b>Strong Wind (EG40)</b>
	<b>1600CST</b>				

Gradient winds gusting up to 45 MPH downed trees and branches in McLeod, Goodhue, and Dakota counties. In McLeod County power lines were damaged in 4 locations across Hutchinson. One downed power line started a brush fire just north of town along Highway 15. In Goodhue County a 30 foot tall tree was downed along East 11th Street in Zumbrota. In Dakota County 1000 customers lost power after branches fell onto power lines in Hastings.

**Stearns County**

**Sartell**

<b>23</b>	<b>1220CST</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Thunderstorm Wind (EG55)</b>
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Trees and power lines were downed. A camper trailer was blown onto its side.

**Carver County**

**Chaska**

<b>23</b>	<b>1230CST</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Thunderstorm Wind (EG52)</b>
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A large tree was downed onto a power line, setting it on fire. A fence was also damaged by the felled tree. The time was estimated.

**Morrison County**

**Little Falls**

<b>23</b>	<b>1235CST</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Thunderstorm Wind (EG55)</b>
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Several trees were downed, including one in Pine Grove Park.

**MNZ060**

**Hennepin**

<b>23</b>	<b>1245CST</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>2</b>	<b>Strong Wind (EG45)</b>
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Gusty winds ahead of a thunderstorm caused a rig platform on a high rise building along Nicollet Mall to spin around and crash into a window on the 36th floor. Two men who were washing windows from the platform sustained minor injuries. In addition, two people had to be rescued after the gusty wind caused their boat to capsize on Lake Nokomis.

**Ramsey County**

**Roseville**

<b>23</b>	<b>1250CST</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>0</b>	<b>Thunderstorm Wind (EG50)</b>
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A tree was downed.



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### MINNESOTA, Central and South Central

<b>Ramsey County</b>									
Arden Hills	23	1251CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (EG50)
		A tree was downed.							
<b>Anoka County</b>									
Coon Rapids	23	1252CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (EG52)
		A few trees were downed.							
<b>Anoka County</b>									
Fridley	23	1252CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (EG52)
		A few trees were downed.							
<b>Anoka County</b>									
Anoka Co Blaine Arpt	23	1255CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (MG56)
		A 64 MPH wind gust was recorded at the airport.							
<b>Ramsey County</b>									
St Paul	23	1310CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (EG58)
		Several trees up to 3 feet in diameter were downed onto roads, roofs, and parked cars in the Dale Street and Marshall Avenue area.							
<b>Anoka County</b>									
Oak Grove	23	1312CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (EG52)
		A few trees were downed.							
<b>Ramsey County</b>									
Maplewood	23	1315CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (EG52)
		A few trees were downed onto a power line, setting them on fire. The time was estimated.							
<b>Anoka County</b>									
Centerville	23	1320CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (EG52)
		A few trees and power lines were downed near Centerville Road and Main Street.							
<b>Isanti County</b>									
8 W Cambridge	23	1320CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (EG55)
		A spotter estimated a wind gust between 60 and 65 MPH near the intersection of highways 47 and 95.							
<b>Isanti County</b>									
1 W Cambridge	23	1325CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (EG52)
		A tree was downed.							
<b>Chisago County</b>									
Harris	23	1335CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (EG55)
		Three trees were downed.							
<b>Kanabec County</b>									
Countywide	23	1335CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (EG55)
		A few trees were downed and shingles were damaged in South Fork Township. The time was estimated.							
<b>Washington County</b>									
1 NW Stillwater	23	1335CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (EG52)
		A power line was downed along Highway 96 at Norrel Ave.							

### WISCONSIN, West

<b>Dunn County</b>									
2 E Wheeler	05	1635CST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
		A funnel cloud was reported by a trained spotter on Highway 170.							



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### WISCONSIN, West

#### Polk County

1 SE Horse Creek	05	1735CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (EG50)
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Trees were downed on West Church Rd. The time was estimated.

#### Pierce County

6 SSW Ellsworth to 5 S Ellsworth	05	1740CST 1742CST	1	25	0	0			Tornado (F0)
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A tornado touched down in an open field, then moved into a wooded grove where it broke a few trees, then dissipated.

#### Polk County

2 NE Balsam Lake	05	1755CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (EG50)
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Trees were downed on 120th St. in Milltown Township. The time was estimated.

#### St. Croix County

1 NW Wilson to 2 S Glenwood City	05	1828CST 1832CST			0	0			Funnel Cloud
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A funnel cloud was reported by the fire department near the intersection of Highway 128 and Highway 12 just west of Wilson. The same funnel was spotted by the fire department 2 miles south of Glenwood City.

#### Barron County

6 WNW Prairie Farm	05	1905CST 1906CST	0.3	25	0	0			Tornado (F0)
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A tornado touched down briefly, breaking several trees and destroying a shed.

#### St. Croix County

Hudson	23	1340CST			0	0			Thunderstorm Wind (EG52)
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A tree was downed.